The Lions' Pride

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University rejects Senate Resolution 2; refuses to accept change to student commencement speaker requirements

Student resolution would "diminish the honor" of commencement speaker

By Collin Good
Editor-in-Chief

Despite the efforts of the Second Transitional Senate, the University has denied Senate Resolution 2, a resolution that would lower the requisite cumulative grade point average for the student commencement speaker from a 3.5 to a 3.0.

On Feb. 8, student leaders met for only the second time under the December constitution as the Second Transitional Senate. At the meeting, the Senate unanimously passed Senate Resolution 2, calling for the GPA requirement to be lowered to a 3.0, citing that no student having been elected to serve as a class officer for the class of 2012, nor any member of the SGU Executive Board, currently held a 3.5 cumulative GPA.

Just days before an email had been issued to all graduating seniors detailing the events of the commencement exercises, as well as the requirements for the student commencement speaker. As tradition dictates, any student meeting the requirements is eligible for nomination by a student or faculty member. Never before had the student body been made aware of the requisite GPA.

The Senate Resolution made it to the office of the Student Government Union President, Amanda Cassar, who signed the resolution and sent it to the Office of the Registrar, within which the Commencement Committee is composed. The Commencement Committee is composed of University staff: no students sit on the committee.

On Monday, Feb. 20, almost two weeks after the resolution was signed, did Cassar receive any kind of notice about the resolution.

"At other colleges and universities the Valedictorian is usually the commencement speaker," said Lori Lavery-Broda, Associate Registrar, in an email. "This person usually has the highest QPA (sic) in the class. At Saint Leo we do it a little different, it is not called a valedictorian and we give a larger number of people the opportunity to be the speaker by setting the GPA at 3.5 or above. We also allow the senior class to vote for the commencement speaker from a list of names presented to the senior class president."

"This is a special honor for a graduating senior, lowering the GPA from 3.50 would diminish this honor."

The Student Government Union, after three years of calls for a new constitution, passed unanimously a new constitution in December 2011. This constitution created the idea of the transitional senate, and with it, gave the Senate power to pass resolutions. Elections were held in late January 2012, creating a 28 member Senate, comprised of four liaisons, eight class officers, and four members at large from each class.

The change from a Senate comprised of representatives from each organization on campus, as well as eight class officers, four liaisons, and the Executive Board, to a Senate directly elected by the student body (the four liaisons are the only members not elected; these positions will not remain after September 11, 2012) was intended to give more of a voice to students as a whole, rather than remain a forum for students involved in clubs and organizations. This change was intended to give the elected student leadership more power to affect change on campus.

Senate Resolution 2 is the first to make it out of the Second Transitional Senate; SR 1 was tabled in the same meeting. SR 2 was proposed after students expressed their concern about the requirements for student commencement speaker to their class officers. Students like Cassar posted in the Class of 2012 facebook group, saying "Nomination forms are out for commencement speaker. Who has a 3.5? Because I don't. Let's fight it. Make the pool of people who are eligible to speak bigger!"

"Maybe the reason we all have lower than a 3.5 is because we're not sitting in our rooms studiously, but we're out building community and excellence across campus instead," said senior Anysia Weicht.

The class of 2012 leadership has been working to present the issue to the Senate, but now faces another hurdle. Despite the fact that the Commencement Committee presents its candidates to the senior class president, who calls

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Senate Resolution 2

Resolved, we the Senators of the Student Government Union Second Transitional Senate, duly elected to represent the members of our respective classes on issues affecting the student body as a whole, as well as to be stewards of student leadership, hereby call for the following change:

Citing the Saint Leo University Student Commencement Speaker Nomination Form, distributed to all students of the Class of 2012 on February 7, 2012;

We, the undersigned, do hereby call for the following amendments to the qualifications for Student Commencement Speaker:

1. Students eligible for nomination for the position of Commencement Speaker, who will be duly elected by the graduating class of Saint Leo University and reviewed by a panel of Saint Leo University faculty and staff members, shall meet the minimum requirement of a 3.0/4.0 Cumulative Grade Point Average.

Citing the Saint Leo University Student Government Union Constitution, ratified December 2011 upon unanimous passage, any student seeking any position on the Saint Leo University Student Government Union Executive Board, thus privy to such scholarship entitled to those elected officers, shall attain a minimum Cumulative Grade Point Average of 2.25.

The Student Government Union Constitution, under which any student who pays the Student Activities Fee becomes a member of the Student Government Union, outlines the necessary requirements to become a leader of one's class, as well as the leader of the entire student body. This contradiction between elected student leadership, one who is held to the highest standard of leadership – the measure of approval of one's peers – and the measurement of success per the definition of the University is not only unfair but invalid. This resolution seeks to resolve the discrepancy between the standard of academic student leadership necessary to seek office, and the academic requirement needed to be demonstrative of successful student leadership throughout one's tenure at the
University.

Resolved this day, February 8, 2012, before the Second Transitional Senate

Opinions

Things I think you should know

Campus happenings, world headlines, and all sorts of facts

By Collin Good
Editor-in-Chief

It's that time of year where miderterms are upon us, and the stress levels are running high. It's also the time of year we, as students, become the most passionate about things we care about. While homework assignments may not get turned in on time, you can bet you'll be focused on your club activities or your team practices.

While it's easy to get bogged down in everything you're doing this week, we at *The Lions' Pride* feel that you should be briefed on a number of subjects that will directly or indirectly affect you this semester.

First, Senate Resolution 1 will have been voted on by the time this goes to print. SR1 called for the Student Government Union to provide funding for championship rings to the women's soccer team. This team went undefeated in conference play this season, and hosted both the conference tournament and regional tournament.

SR1 simply asks SGU to fund the purchase of rings for 25 outstanding Saint Leo Lions. For the first time in quite some time, I won't be at Senate to see the outcome of SR1. We'll surely be covering it next week, but you should be aware of the situation, because all of the money, if given to the team, will come from your student activities fees.

Next, the Greek Parliament adopted new austerity measures, increasing pressure on Greek citizens, most of whom are lower-middle class, in an attempt to balance the country's books and turn their economy from the brink of collapse.

Why is this important to you? If Greece's economy does collapse, it's tied to the common currency of the Euro Zone, a group of countries in Europe that maintain a union of trade and cooperation. This collapse could cause the economies of most of the major European nations to collapse or fall into unfavorable territory, meaning that not only will things become more expensive, but we'll be looking back to 2008's economic downturn as the good old days.

As if the turmoil in Greece wasn't enough, start looking at the situation in Syria. Syrian's President, Bashar Al-Assad, has been trying to maintain power, as well as law and order, since the end of the Arab Spring revolutions last year. His actions, having been called deplorable by most members of the United Nations Security Council, have led to the deaths of hundreds of Syrians. This massacre is allowed to continue, thanks to China and Russia, both of whom vetoed a measure from the UNSC to call for Al-Assad's removal.

Weapons inspectors moved into Iran earlier this week, amid a potential new wave of United Nations sanctions. The inspectors will be looking at nuclear development sites throughout the country.

Baseball great Tim Wakefield, who played in the major leagues for 17 seasons, retired earlier this week. Wakefield spent the last 15 seasons as a pitcher for the Boston Red Sox.

Last week the members of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity shaved their heads for charity, raising over $2,400 for the Children's Miracle Network. The annual event allows the highest bidder to shave a brother's head. All proceeds from the event go directly to the charity.

The Presidents' Council met for the first time last week, affording club presidents or their representatives to speak on issues important to their organizations. This first meeting appeared to get things off to a slow start, but it is clear that the more involved the Senate gets, the more often the Presidents' Council will want to be meeting in the future.

The Second Transitional Senate has created the new Appropriations Board, allocating each organization on campus a budget of $399. This budget can only be used after the organizations have demonstrated their need for the money, and have completed at least one community service event and one social event.

Campus organizations will be traveling throughout the next few weeks, making their way all over the country. Members of Pi Sigma Alpha, the Political Science Honor Society, will be traveling to Tallahassee to meet with local legislators, as well as tour the Supreme Court of the State of Florida. Other club members will also be traveling to Penn State University to compete for the third year in the Pennsylvania Model United Nations Conference.

The Psychology Department traveled to New Orleans this past week, with students presenting their research projects at SEPA. This is a high honor for students, and they deserve to be congratulated for their hard work.

Sigma Tau Delta, the English Honor Society, will be traveling to New Orleans in the coming week to present their work and speak on panels at a national conference.

Lastly, I want to personally thank the University, as well as the Student Government Union, for their consideration and kind efforts with the passing of Dr. Patrick Draves. Dr. Draves was an asset to the University committee, and will surely be missed. The student memorial event, "Dew the Draves," as well as the memorial service held in the Abbey Church were demonstrative of the strength of the Saint Leo community. My thanks go out to all of those who made those events happen.

The Lions' Pride

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Letters to the editor to The Lions' Pride should be no more than 500 words in length and should not include profane or slanderous language. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, spelling, and libel; as well as the right to publish or not. All submissions should be sent to **thelionspridenewspaper@gmail.com**. Letters to the editor must be submitted with student's name, year, and major. Faculty and staff members must include rank and department. Please include a phone number (not a publication) so we can verify authorship.

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Campus News

Students honor beloved professor and friend

By Kyle Dunlap

Dr. Draves was a wonderful man, who inspired so many people in the St. Leo Community to do so much. His tests were hard—though I have little knowledge of this, I've heard from plenty of people that they were—but they were Patrick's way of letting us all know that he thought we were capable of doing great things. I can attest to that part: he thought the same of me.

Patrick was not my professor, nor was he just a member of the faculty of my university; he was my friend. I met him through his girlfriend, who was a close friend herself and a fellow follower of eccentricity. I had expected someone dignified, grand, or somehow professor-like. Imagine my surprise when I saw this man with long hair and an Iron Maiden tee walk out of a bedroom. I shook his hand, and from that point forward, I counted him as a friend.

We would spend hours and entire evenings talking about everything that we could, from political musings to philosophical rants and everything in between. Every memory that I have heard from his friends and family seems to follow this theme: strange, but smart. He was the smartest man I have ever met, and even in his premature death, he continues to guide me. Every time I see a Mountain Dew can, take a test, or am faced with a decision, I ask myself what Patrick would have done, and somehow a good answer comes into my head.

I remember one night while we were sitting in his living room, with a lit cigarette and Diet Coke in my hand and a cigar and a Mountain Dew in his, I was sharing with him the frustration I was dealing with in working at a gas station. My life was stuck, my studies at USF were fruitless because of the other dealings of life that I had to go through, and I needed some slack. I was going nowhere. He looked at me and told me that I should not seek a good professional reference from someone with the words "love" and "hate" tattooed on their hands. I quit that place the next day, and from there, my life started to improve. I owe that, and my coming to Saint Leo, to him.

His quirkiness, however, was something to behold. I still remember the day when our music collections came up in conversation. I mentioned that I had almost ten thousand songs in my library, that I really loved music. He, in his unpretentious and almost childlike manner, showed me his own music collection. I had never heard of kazoo death metal before that day, but he introduced me. I am listening to some while I compose this, just because it seems like what he would have wanted. He had a million interesting things about him and I would give numerous vital appendages to have him back, if only to learn more about him.

In short, he was my inspiration, my confidant, my teacher (in the fatherly sense), but most importantly, he was my friend. His vibrant spirit and his playful attitude towards life is something I will greatly miss in this world. We have lost a great friend with his death, and that hurts the most. I hope that everyone has at least one memory of him like my own.

If you wish to pay your respects to this highly untraditional man in the days to come, go look up some kazoo death metal on the internet, drink a Mountain Dew, and make some jokes. That is exactly how my friend would have wanted it.

"Dr. Draves was more than just a professor; he was a inspirational and highly intelligent person who truly cared about his students, friends, and family. He never failed to lend a helping hand to everyone and anyone. The impact he made on all of us will always be carried on and never forgotten."
- Senior Krista Miles

"Dr. Draves was such a remarkable person, and definitely one of the most intelligent people I have ever met. Each time I heard him speak, he truly inspired me to further my academic pursuits. It was because of him that I put aside my initial fear of research and decided to undertake two research projects. He also helped me conquer the dreaded GRE. Saint Leo is incredibly lucky to have had him as a part of our community, and I feel very fortunate that I got to know him. Saint Leo won't be the same without him, but I will always remember the impact he left on the school."
- Senior Cheralyn Barrington

Campus News

Saint Leo StudentsAttend SEPA Conference in New Orleans

By Robert Barrington
Advertising Editor

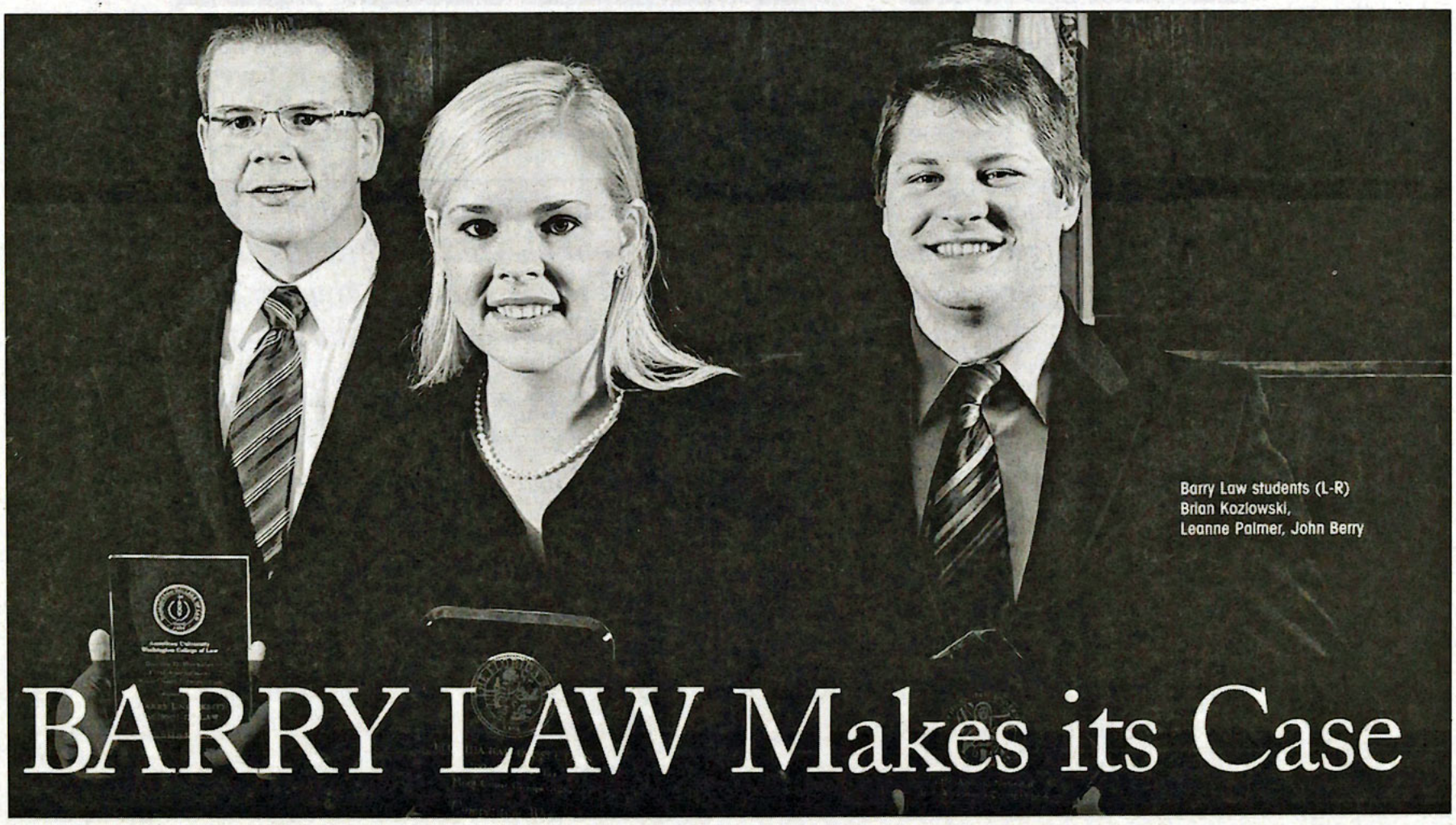
Saint Leo faculty and students, from the psychology department, attended the Southeastern Psychological Association (SEPA) Conference in New Orleans on Feb. 15 – 18. Professor Shannon Farris and Professor Tammy Zacchilli and their students presented poster sessions on cyberbullying. The conference took place at the Sheraton Hotel on Canal Street overlooking downtown New Orleans during the Mardi Gras celebration.

The poster sessions displayed posters from faculty and students from other universities in the Southeastern United States, and featured posters from the Saint Leo faculty and students with titles: Cyberbullying: A Study of Parental Awareness, and Will They Grow Out of It? The Prominence of Cyberbullying in College. The conference gave students a chance to present the research they had gathered throughout the year, and to experience discussion sessions with their peers in the field. Attending the conference in New Orleans offered students firsthand experience on presenting their research outside of their academic environment and into a professional conference setting.

Cyberbullying is a new field that has developed with social media, and new laws are being developed to combat abuses. "Although instances of cyberbullying in college were found to be minimal compared to studies of high school and middle school children, cyberbullying can cause serious social and psychological problems," said Saint Leo psychology student Cheralyn Barrington. According to the poster, "Cyberbullying is defined as an aggressive, intentional act carried out by a group or individual using electronic forms of contact repeatedly over time against a victim who cannot easily defend him or herself."

The research involved having participants take surveys online, with questions that were designed to measure the participant's knowledge of cyberbullying. Saint Leo faculty and students answered questions and elaborated on what defined cyberbullying, and what the consequences of being a victim entailed. They talked about the trends, and the new laws that are currently being formed in order to combat cyberbullying, and how the people need to be informed about their rights when it comes to being cyberbullied. Although cyberbullying can cause many social and psychological problems, the perpetrators think they can hide behind a computer screen, but new technology has made it easier to find out who is behind the harassment. The law takes cyberbullying very seriously, and those found guilty could face stiff fines and even end up in prison.

The Saint Leo faculty and students that attended the SEPA conference in New Orleans had the opportunity to enjoy the parades and the parties of Mardi Gras, and since New Orleans is also known for its fine cuisine, those in attendance had the opportunity to enjoy alligator hors d'oeuvres during the conference welcome reception.



Campus News

Mardi Gras New Orleans 2012

By Danielle Ferguson
Staff Writer

Mardi Gras is a big holiday in New Orleans with music, parades, floats, great food, and an exciting good time. Mardi Gras is enjoyed every year, starting one month before Ash Wednesday, and building up until the night of Feb. 21 this year (Fat Tuesday). Businesses and roads are practically shut down, and people are in crazy costumes attending parties almost every night.

The origins of Mardi Gras can be traced back to medieval Europe, but the Mardi Gras celebrated in New Orleans can be traced back to 1718 where Louisiana's Governor, The Marquis de Vaudreuil, established elegant society balls by the early 1740s. The parades and floats formed in the 1800 with the establishment of "Krewes." Most Mardi Gras Krewes today developed from private social clubs that had restrictive membership policies, and since they are all privately funded by its members, they still restrict membership and create their own floats and parades.

The throwing of trinkets to the crowds was started in the early 1870s by the Twelfth Night Revelers, and today they throw out anything from doubloons, beads, cups, and stuffed animals. Parades and the throwing of trinkets are what tourists see, but the real excitement for residents of Louisiana occurs at the formal and private balls for the Krewe. Debutantes are introduced at the Ball Tableau as a formal introduction to society, and the social ladder starts for the children serving as pages to the court. Attendance at the older, more aristocratic balls, is by invitation only, and many important people are not invited, including some governors who want to attend.

Each Mardi Gras Parade Krewe has a unique history and theme. Some have been around for decades, while others have been in existence for just a few years. Most tourists think of Mardi Gras as a big party where women show their breast for beads, and where people drink until they pass out. The real Mardi Gras is about tradition, the balls, fun of the parades, the celebrities, and the food of New Orleans. Most people enjoying Mardi Gras are families with young children, and the parades tend to be in the market and business area. The French Quarter is the oldest part of the city, and it houses art shops, antiques, and restaurants. Bourbon Street has become a Spring Break and partying district, and is best known for seeing women showing their breasts for beads, and drunks passed out, and should be avoided by families and those who would be offended by such things. Mardi Gras is a tradition, a big party, and a celebration to remember.

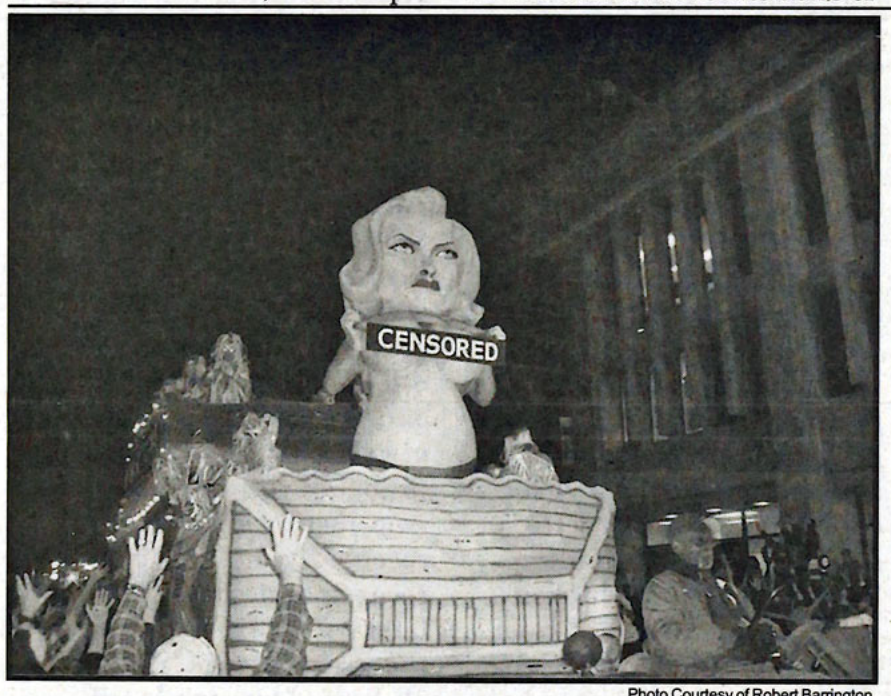
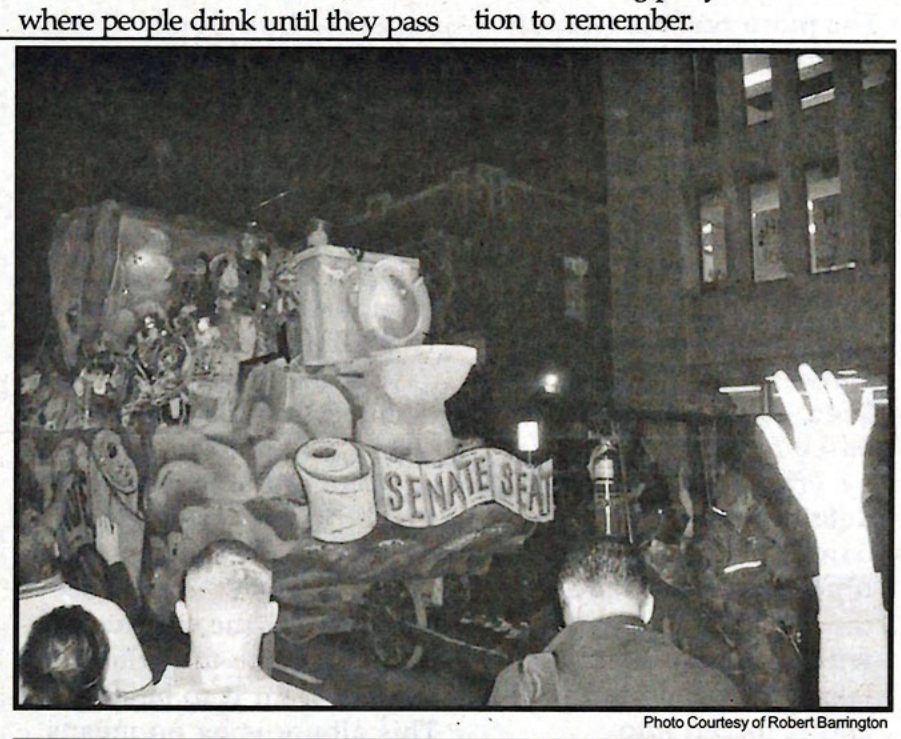


Photo Courtesy of Robert Barrington



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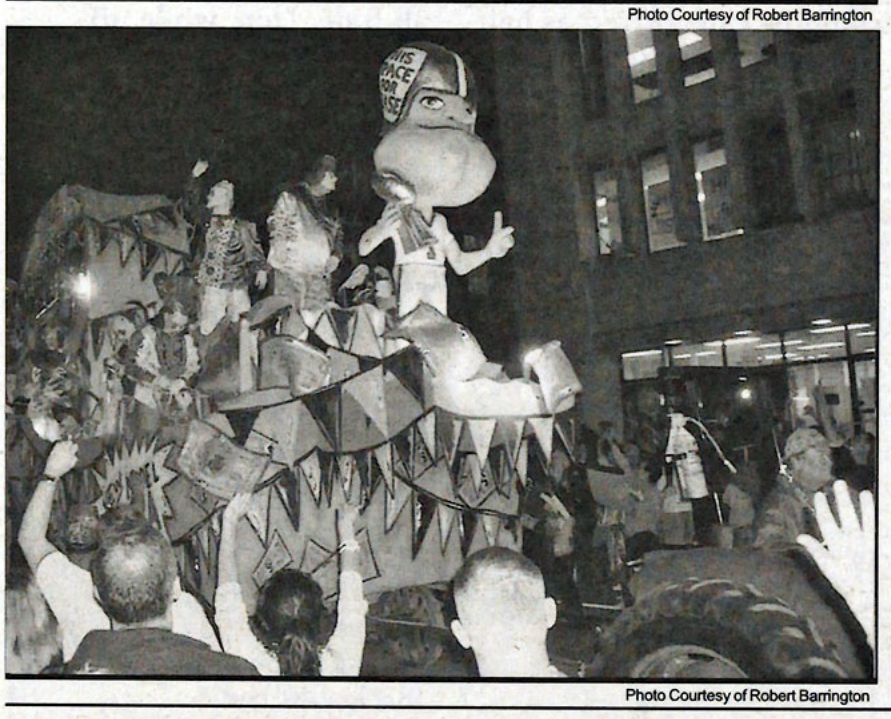
Photo Courtesy of Robert Barrington

Photo Courtesy of Robert Barrington

Senate Resolution

Continued from Page 1

for a class-wide election, the president has no power in changing the rules or setting up the committee. No student was officially made aware of this requirement before the senior class president met with Lavery-Broda in late January.

At the time of printing, it appears that Senate Resolution 2 may affect no change. It is unclear where a senate resolution can go, and how much clout it will receive. As with the transition from one constitution to another, so too is the process untested. Senate Resolution 1 will go before the Senate on Feb. 22.

The University Commencement schedule of exercises can be found online at www.saintleo.edu

Arts & Entertainment

Lulu: a strange musical experiment

By Mathew Rodgers
Copy Editor

Lou Reed, the rock and roll animal, and Metallica, the kings of metal, are back; this time working together to create a somewhat off-putting and entirely unexpected album with their 2011 release, *Lulu*. *Lulu* is the collaboration between Lou Reed (guitar, vocals) and Metallica (James Hetfield -guitar, vocals, Lars Ulrich-drums, Kirk Hammet - guitar, Robert Trujillo -bass), and is a concept album based on two plays of the same name by Frank Wedekind. For those readers who are not familiar, a concept album is an album based around a concept, which is usually a singular story or a series of interrelated ideas. Some popular concept albums are Pink Floyd's *The Wall* and My Chemical Romance's *The Black Parade* . The concept of Lulu, as stated earlier, is based off of the two plays by Frank Wedekind, which detail the life of a German dancer, who climbs to the top of the social ladder through her interaction with different men, but later falls from high society and is forced into prostitution.

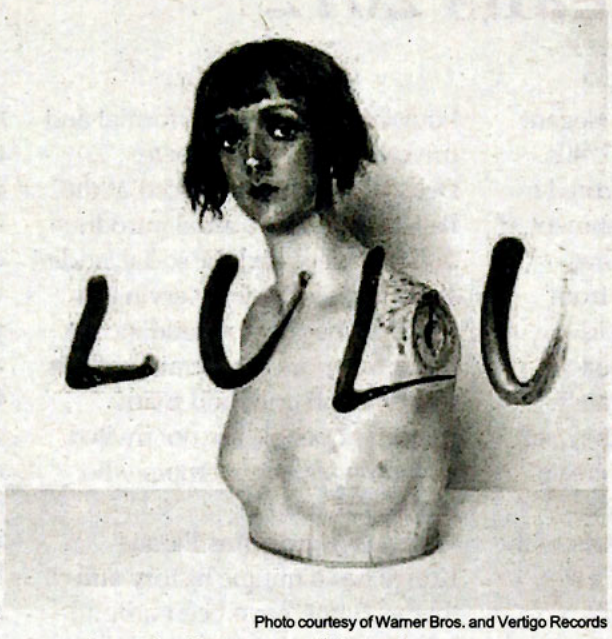

Photo courtesy of Warner Bros. and Vertigo Records

This album has several things working for it, and several things working against it. But one thing is for sure, it's absolutely brilliant, despite being somewhat hard to listen to.

There is no commercial appeal to this album. It was clearly done as an avant-garde piece and is very abrasive, as the lyrics explore weird, grotesqu,e and dark places of the human subconscious, often being charged with an animalistic sexual overtone. This album, however, does have some of the most talented musicians in the world backing the music, and one of the most talented songwriters ever writing the lyrics. So, one may ask why this album isn't easier to digest? And the conclusion that I've come to is that they did not want it to be easy. This album is by no means trying to appeal to the favored ideas of the masses. However, it does realize the artistic vision that it sets out to create.

For example, the song "Little Dog" has a brilliant acoustic guitar part, with Lou Reed speaking poetry over it (as he does with all the songs throughout the album). If one were to read the lyrics as they listened, they would have an appreciation for the brilliant prose poetry that Reedhas written, not to mention one cannot help but be impressed by the instrumentation of all the members of Metallica. However, as with all the songs on this album, this song tends to drag. In fact, as a combined piece, the album (spanning two discs) is close to 90 minutes long. Reed would have benefited from cutting the more repetitive parts of the lyrics, as they are mostly spoken word anyway.

The song "Iced Honey" is reminiscent of Lou Reed's *Berlin* album, with its rock and swing roots. However, it could have benefited from sticking to this formula a little more, as the spoken word seems awkward over the driving music and what could be categorized as half-sung choruses. Reed, who is approaching 70, has lost a lot of the dynamic quality of his voice and it seems a little out of place is the songs that have a more pop sound to them on this album.

Lulu is not so much a rock album, but rather a book with brilliant heavy metal instrumentation in the background. It is not listener friendly, as stated earlier, and honestly it would have benefited from not trying to completely alienate its listeners. One of the obstacles that the listener will encounter when approaching this album is it unique quality. The listener needs to approach the album from a different viewpoint. The whole album is about reframing perception, but due to its obtrusiveness, the album gives no center for the new perception to be framed around. That being said, if one is looking for the danceable grooves of Lou Reed's *Transformer* or the metal insanity of Metallica's *Ride the Lightening*, then they are looking in the wrong place. However, if one is looking for an intelligent, introspective, and off-putting literary piece of art, then *Lulu* is probably right up their alley. And just as Reed's *Berlin* received very little positive reception at first, but was later recognized as one of the greatest rock albums of all time, *Lulu*, while off-putting, will cement its place in rock history as a brilliant experiment.

2012Grammy Nominee Playlist

By Brooke King
Entertainment Editor

1. "Rolling In The Deep"
   Adele
   21
2. "Grenade"
   Bruno Mars
   Doo-Wops & Hooligans
3. "Firework"
   Katy Perry
   Teenage Dream
4. "Moves Like Jagger"
   Maroon 5
   Hands All Over
5. "Super Bass"
   Nicki Minaj
   Pink Friday
6. "What's My Name?"
   Rihanna
   Loud
7. "Work Out"
   J. Cole
   Cole World:The Sideline Story
8. "Yoü And I"
   Lady Gaga
   Born This Way
9. "Pumped Up Kicks"
   Foster The People
   Torches
10. "Scary Monsters And Nice Sprites"
    Skrillex
    More Monsters and Sprites
11. "Paradise"
    Coldplay
    Mylo Xyloto
12. "Walk"
    Foo Fighters
    Wasting Light
13. "If I Die Young"
    The Band Perry
    The Band Perry
14. "The Cave"
    Mumford & Sons
    Sigh No More
15. "Holocene"
    Bon Iver
    Bon Iver
16. "Just A Kiss"
    Lady Antebellum
    Own the Night
17. "Mean"
    Taylor Swift
    Speak Now
18. "Honey Bee"
    Blake Shelton
    Red River Blues
19. "Drink In My Hand"
    Eric Church
    Chief
20. "Dearest"
    The Black Keys
    Rave on Buddy Holly

The 2012 Academy Awards

The Oscar Race: *The Help*

By Owen Robertson
Staff Writer

With the 84th annual Academy Awards less than two weeks away, *The Help* has lost a lot of the momentum it had when it was first released last August; but this film should not be forgotten.

With its story placed at the beginning of the Civil Rights Movement in rural Mississippi the movie tells the story of Skeeter Phelan (Emma Stone), who seeks to write a book from the perspective of the help. "The help" are all African American women,who with the backdrop of the Civil Rights Movement, are given a voice, but yet still remain voiceless by the end of the film.

Directed and written by Tate Taylor, as adapted from Kathryn Stockett's book, *The Help* weaves a good story bringing the backdrop of life in the 60's

Photo courtesy of DreamWorks Pictures

to life. Taylor does justice to the portrayal of black women in the 60's and how they raised white children, often neglected by their own parents, and yet often grew up only to continue the racial bigotry that they grew up in, despite the color of the women who raised them. "You is smart, you is pretty, and you is important" is a mantra repeated throughout the movie, told by black women to their charges. The dichotomy of this statement to these children, who in most cases, likely grew up to continue the bigotry of the time, is not lost on the audience.

Emma Stone does a fair job in her portrayal of Skeeter Phelan, she is believable, but only to a point. While she is the star of the movie and the driving force that brings the women together to tell their story, it is the supporting roles that provide the most memorable and Oscar worthy performances.

Viola Davis and Octavia Spencer have both been nominated for Oscar awards and justly so. Spencer plays Minny Jackson, a women who is fired for using the bathroom of her white employer. She is also the wife of an abusive husband and while she herself is a powerful character it is Spencer's believability that brings her to life. Spencer has been winning several awards this season for her work in *The Help* and rightfully so. However, it is Davis' portrayal of Aibileen Clark that brings home the truth of character, the strength of performance that makes *The Help* worthy of its nomination for Best Picture. One moment most stands out in Davis' work and that is the retelling of how Aibileen Clarks' son dies. That is a defining moment for an actor and Davis brings this moment home with honesty and sincerity that is rarely seen these days on film.

While *The Help* may not win all the awards it is nominated for, it should not be missed. This is a work that bares notice and audiences should see it, if not for its message, then for the craftsmanship of the performances from two actors, who will likely give the world more worthy performances.

The Artist: sometimes silence is cenematic gold

By Brooke King
Entertainment Editor

Is it possible to watch *The Artist* and focus on the acting without be distracted by the lack of sound? While some may find this cinematic element frustrating, it is one of the movies most enduring quality.

This is easily one of the most entertaining films of the year because of its story, the acting performances, and because it delves back uniquely back into old Hollywood, playing with silent filming and black and white cinematography. While the film is not totally silent, it still plays into the use of accompanied music, kind of like a regular movie.

Set in 1927, George Valentin (Jean Dujardin) is an up on his luck actor that is enthusiastic about his new role and is front of a crowded theater, taking bows and applause from the adoring crowd. Outside the theater, fans and media surround Valentin in hopes of getting close to their hero. A young girl, Peppy Miller (Bérénice Bejo) drops her

Photo courtesy of The Weinstien Company

wallet on the ground in order to scathe past the security and meet Valentin. Inspired by meeting her hero, Miller is determined to follow in his path and soon successfully gets a small part as an extra in Valentin's new movie 'A German Affair.' Valentin enters the studio for his new movie and instantly distracted by Miller rehearsing on the other side of the stage. He tries to join in her dance rehearsal, but is shocked to find that the girl he was admiring was the same one from the crowd outside the theater.

Years pass until one day Al Zimmer (John Goodman), the stereotypical studio boss, calls Valentin in to see the newest edition in technology, an attempt to record movies in sound. Valentin is disgusted with the footage and mocks it. That night he has a nightmare about how every sound is exaggerated, but his own voice is stifled. His weariness about sound films is correct, he is soon fired by Zimmer, sending him in to a downfall as he tried self-funding the comeback of silent films. Miller, on the other hand, is successful as the new star on the scene. As Miller continues to climb the ladder of success, Valentin's world becomes turned upside down.

Directed by Michel Hazanavicius, *The Artist* takes the history of Hollywood and puts a fresh and unique spin on it. Hazanavicius has worked together before on the James Bond parody *OSS 117*. Much like his performance in *OSS 117*, Dujardin delivers the same, what now seems, trademark smile and cocky attitude in *The Artist*. Bejo brings a sort of warmth and lightheartedness to her performance that makes her character seemingly believable. However, it is the attention paid to location of this film, the authentic interpretation of the 1920's silent film industry, and the superb casting of the supporting roles that encapsulates the period quite nicely. The highest honor, however, goes to Hazanavicius because there were times in the film where I forgot that I was watching a contemporary silent film. *The Artist* is up for multiple Academy Awards, including Best Picture, Best Actor and Support Actress, and Cinematography. With such a wide range of brilliance, *The Artist* is sure to take home more than a few Oscars.

Sports

Ruh Leads Men's Hoops to 5th Straight Win

Taylor McGillis
Online Editor

The Saint Leo men's basketball team (13-10, 7-6 SSC) trounced the Sharks of Nova Southeastern (11-12, 5-8 SSC) on Saturday afternoon to secure a winning record for the first time in 14 years. The 5th straight win for the squad came in a 61-49 victory at home in which the Lions dominated from the opening tip.

The Lions jumped out of the gate quickly, reaching a double digit lead after only two-and-a-half minutes of play. Point guard Marcus Ruh led the Lions in what was surely his best offensive performance of the season, leading all scorers with 26 points (12-16 from the field), a career high for the junior from Green Bay, Wisc. Ruh was not by himself, though, as Trent Thomas continued his offensive prowess with 15 points including hitting three threes from beyond the arc. Randall's team as a whole shot 56% for the game, the highest against a conference opponent this season.

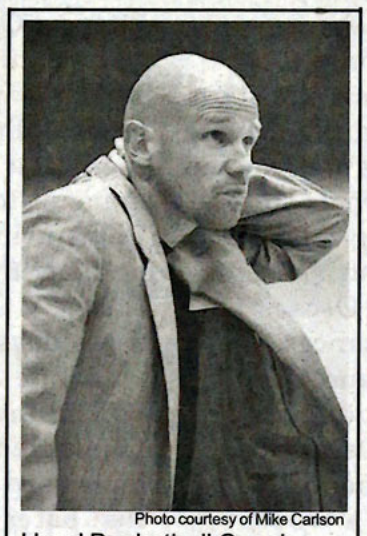

Photo courtesy of Mike Carlson
Head Basketball Coach Lance Randall

The Lions went into the half with a 37-21 lead and continued to expand on it throughout the final 20 minutes. It was the Lions' inside presence that seemed to be the difference as the team outscored the Sharks 28-14 from inside the key and out-rebounded the team 32-27, 10 of which came from Dominic Robinson. The Lions' suffocating defensive presence continued as well as the team forced 17 turnovers which were turned into 22 points.

"I thought we came out and we defended really well. We did a nice job with ball pressure and taking control of the paint early on," head coach Lance Randall said postgame on his team's defensive effort.

With the Lions winning their last five games in a row, the team now sits tied for third place with Rollins in the Sunshine State Conference with two games remaining. The Lions play host to the Eckerd College Tritons on Wednesday, Feb. 22 and finish up the season on the road against seventh place Barry.

Randall provided some thoughts as his first season at the helm of the Saint Leo men's basketball program begins to wind down; "It's great for the program because that was one of our goals right away. It's important because we have people looking at this program wondering if we're going to be able to turn it around, I think that says a lot. I think we're playing some great basketball, but I think we also have bigger fish to fry right now. We have more games to win."

Junior Forward Marcus Ruh
Photo courtesy of Mike Carlson

Lions drop first home game to Lindenwood

By Chad Wise
Sports Editor

Women's lacrosse may be new at Saint Leo, but the fan support is not lacking. With the advertising of free food and the first home game in the program's history, over 600 supporters showed up to the new University Field to cheer on the team on Friday, Feb. 17, only to witness a 5-23 drubbing at the hands of the Lindenwood University Lions of Missouri.

Following her hat trick performance against Rollins in the season opener, sophomore Stephanie Marran scored another four against the visiting Lions, including the first goal scored by a Division-II women's lacrosse program at Saint Leo University. The goal was also the first from a free position shot.

The celebration was short-lived, however, as Lindenwood scored the next eight goals before junior basketball convert Alyssa Viscomi opened her account for the 2012 season about halfway through the first half, bringing Saint Leo to within seven, before ending the half behind 3-15. Viscomi's goal was assisted by freshman Alix Murray, the only Saint Leo assist of the game.

Freshman goalkeeper Brittany Millsap stopped six of twenty-one shots in almost forty minutes of the sixty-minute game, giving up 15 goals before being replaced by sophomore Nicole Sirota-Plotnikov for the final twenty minutes. Sirota-Plotnikov let in eight goals on eight shots.

Lindenwood had five players with at least three goals, including midfielders Kara Cashen with five and Justiene Groothuis with four. Attacker Lexi Crusha had three assists with her three goals.

The two Lindenwood goalkeepers saved a combined five of ten Saint Leo shots. Christine Hehmeyer, who played the majority of the game, saved four of seven and Brittany Frankenfeld saved one of three.

Saint Leo women's lacrosse dropped to 0-2 on the season, as Lindenwood won the first game of its season before losing to Florida Southern on Feb. 19. The Lions continue the inaugural season at Catawba on Feb. 24 and at Limestone on Feb. 26.

Weekend Games

Friday, February 24

Baseball vs. Fla. Christian College 6pm

Saturday, February 25

Women's Tennis vs. Rollins 11am

Men's Basketball at Barry 4pm

Sunday February 26

Mens Lacrosse at Queens(N.C.) 12pm

Softball
ESPN Citrus Classic
Friday - Sunday
Disney's Wide World of Sports